

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 BIB-01 /085 W
-----024242 010517Z /62

R 311628Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5997
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GE, US, SU
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEMORIAL SERVICE IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) BERLIN 7879, (B) USBER 2683,
(C) STATE 253257

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A CIRCULAR
NOTE FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY ANNOUNCING TO ALL
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO THE GDR THAT A
"WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY" WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE
TREPTOW SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL ON NOVEMBER 7. THE
NOTE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY INVITE ATTENDANCE AND
DOES NOT ASK FOR A RESPONSE. NOTE MAKES NO REFERENCE
TO THE PARTICIPATION OF TROOPS IN THE CEREMONY,
SOVIET OR EAST GERMAN, ALTHOUGH A SIMILAR CEREMONY
IN 1975 DID INVOLVE A RED ARMY CONTINGENT.

2. THE EMBASSY WILL SEEK IN A LOW-KEY MANNER
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TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WILL BE ACTIVE NVA
PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONY. HOWEVER, WE ASSUME
THAT NVA HONOR GUARD UNITS WILL BE INVOLVED, AND
THEREFORE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND THE
CEREMONY AT TREPTOW. WE HAVE MADE KNOWN TO
BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSY COUNTERPARTS THE
DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON ATTENDANCE AT TREPTOW. IT

IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR/CHARGE WILL ATTEND THE TREPTOW CEREMONY, SINCE THEY ARE ALSO SEEKING TO LEARN WHAT KIND OF NVA PARTICIPATION MAY BE INVOLVED. THE GDR (SED, STATE COUNCIL, AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ARE HOSTING SEPARATE FUNCTIONS NOVEMBER 5 IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY; THE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ATTEND. HIS ATTENDANCE AT THESE FUNCTIONS SHOULD INDICATE TO SOVIETS THAT NON-ATTENDANCE AT TREPTOW IS NOT MEANT TO BE A SNUB TO SOVIETS ON OCCASION OF ANNIVERSARY.

3. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR ABRASSIMOV WILL NOT BE IN EAST BERLIN ON NOVEMBER 7. HE WILL INSTEAD BE IN THE USSR, APPARENTLY TRAVELING THERE WITH HONECKER AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF GDR LEADERSHIP. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, INVITATIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN08134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770401-0370
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977105/aaaaadir.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56852b2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 7879, 77 USBERLIN 2683, 77 STATE 253257
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 882642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MEMORIAL SERVICE IN EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PGOV, GC, US, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56852b2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009